



# News Release

## IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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[www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

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### Naylor Farms Water Right Application Denied

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The Idaho Department of Water Resources has on reconsideration, denied a water right application filed by Ralph Naylor Farms, LLC to pump ground water for irrigation and industrial purposes. Naylor Farms is located about three miles north of Moscow.

The application was denied because Naylor Farms failed to show that the ground water supply is sufficient for its intended purposes, or that existing water rights in the area will not be reduced or harmed.

In December 2004, IDWR issued a preliminary order approving the Naylor Farms application based on an aquifer model prepared by the applicant that showed little interconnection between the aquifer proposed to be tapped by Naylor Farms and the aquifers used by the cities of Moscow and Pullman. Those opposing the water right application did not provide their own expert testimony at the first hearing on the matter held in September 2004 in Moscow.

Following the 2004 preliminary order, the Latah County Commission filed a petition for reconsideration with the Department alleging the Naylor water right would conflict with the local public interest. Hearing Officer L. Glen Saxton decided more information was needed on the underlying geology, and the potential hydrologic connectivity of ground water beneath Naylor Farms and other wells in the area.

A second hearing was held in April 2005, and testimony from expert witnesses called by Latah County showed that wells drilled by Naylor Farms would obtain water from the same source as other ground water wells in the area, and would almost certainly cause injury to existing water users.

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Saxton determined the evidence does not support the opinion of Naylor Farms that there is sufficient ground water available for appropriation on their property.

The application was denied without prejudice meaning Naylor farms could file a new application if they choose, or they could file a petition for reconsideration.

The amended preliminary order is available on the IDWR website: [www.idwr.idaho.gov](http://www.idwr.idaho.gov)

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